



PARRA NOTES

Friday, May 6

I hope you all had a great week. Mine was exciting and busy. But not nearly as exciting as it was for my **Sacramento** staff who were all evacuated from the **Capitol** last Friday. No one was hurt, it was only a practice fire drill, but they didn't know that until it was over.

On Monday, the **Latino Legislative Caucus** held their **4th Annual Latino Spirit Awards**. I had the great honor of escorting Grammy Award winning Latin Rock group **Ozomatli** onto the **Assembly floor** to receive their award. Most importantly, I had the honor of introducing to Members of the Assembly our very own **Maria Gutierrez**, Vice President and General Manager of **Univision (KFTC-21)** in **Fresno**. She was the recipient of the **2005 TV Broadcast Latino Spirit Award**. Visiting me at the Capitol Office that same day were a group of students from **Avenal High School** who were all in **Sacramento** as part of the **CLOSE-UP** program. They were here to get a first hand look at government in action.

Julia Berry, **Karri Hammerstrom** and **Feleena Sutton** from the **California Women for Agriculture** in **Fresno** stopped by my office on Tuesday. I also met with **Wayne Smith**, Administrator from the **Valley Convalescent Hospital** in **Shafter** and **Frank Ramirez** and **Patrick Choy** from **Cal State Bakersfield's** Local 1002.

On Wednesday, the **Tulare County Conservation Corps**, stopped by my office and so did Executive Director **David Crow** and **Seyed Sadredin** with the **San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District**. I also had the pleasure of meeting with the **Peace Officers Research Association**, **Fresno Police Officers Association** and the **Fresno Deputy Sheriffs Association**.

But, I'd have to say that I was most excited about joining the youth from **Fresno** and **Tulare** Counties who constructed recycling bins and a 400 ft square foot house on the east lawn of the **Capitol**. They were here joining the **California Association of Local Conservation Corps** and **Youth Build**.

My Legislative Update

Many of you might recall that back in March I held two press conferences in Bakersfield and Fresno to unveil my economic legislation **AB 31**. In fact, many of you participated or attended. I am now happy to report that **AB 31** has passed the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy. The bill was sent to the Assembly floor for vote, but was rerouted to the Assembly Appropriations Committee yesterday.

AB 706 also passed through committee this week. If you would like additional information on any of these, please feel free to contact any of my offices listed below.

AB 31 Central San Joaquin Economic Empowerment will require the creation of an Interagency Task Force to aid in the economic development of the Central San Joaquin Valley by bringing state resources to the valley. Headed to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 706 CSU Whistleblower Protections will allow the Cal State University system to shield an employee's identity and confidentiality when filing a complaint to avoid retaliation.

Other Highlights

HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP

I had a great meeting on Tuesday with **David Carlisle** and **John Rosskopf** from the **Office of Statewide Planning and Development**. They have offered to participate in a conference call with members of my Health Advisory Group and anyone else interested to inform us on the various services their agency offers. If you are interested in participating please contact Nathalia Carrillo at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Nathalia.Carrillo@asm.ca.gov

INDEPENDENT OIL AGENCY

I would like to thank the Independent Oil Agency for honoring me last Friday with the 2005 James S. Gilstar Legislator of the year award. The award is granted to those who have fostered a greater understanding between government and the petroleum industry.

INTERNS WANTED

I am presently accepting applications for my summer internship program in the Hanford District Office. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley.

Applications can be found at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>. The Application deadline is May 20th for summer interns. For more details, please contact Jeff Forbes at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov.

GRANTS

Beginning late June my office will be distributing grant packages. Included in the package will be information regarding, state, federal and private grants. For more information please contact Jeff Forbes at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov.

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